

THIMBL & FRIENDS QUILTING GUILD

Volume 2 Issue 2

January 2002

Come and Play with us!!!

At it's recent meeting the Board decided that we need to celebrate the success of our recent show and the hard work everyone put in. We talked about different options and decided to pursue organizing a weekend quilting retreat!!! Here's the info:

Our retreat will take place at the Seacrest Resort (<http://seacrest-resort.com/index.htm>) on February 2 and 3. The address is: Old Silver Beach on Cape Cod, 350 Quaker Road, North Falmouth, MA 02556. The Guild will pay for the conference room beginning 9 AM on Saturday morning, Feb. 2 and concluding Feb. 3 at 4PM (we have the conference room as late Saturday evening as we want!). In addition, the Guild will be providing a box lunch on Saturday. We received an excellent rate for both the conference room and the lunch, provided that we could guarantee them 10 room rentals for Saturday evening. We received a group room rate of \$82.28 (tax incl.) single or double. There is an additional charge per person for 3 or more to a room.

Guild members are responsible for paying their own room charges and meals except for Saturday's lunch. Guild members need to coordinate their own room rental (discuss among yourselves if you're going to share, etc.) and make your own reservations. The telephone number is 800-225-3110 and you must make your reservation by January 12, 2002. Tell them when you make your reservation that you are with the "Thimbles and Friends Retreat."

If you can't come and stay over night on Saturday, we hope that you will be able to come for the day on Saturday!! We are told by the Seacrest that rooms are also available on Friday evening if you want to come down early and be there for the start of the fun on Saturday morning.

The format of the weekend is very open...it's an opportunity to bring your projects that you are working on, spend some "quality" time, take advantage of the R&R opportunities, and just relax!

This retreat is for Guild members only; no guests, please.

If you have questions, bring them to the January meeting!

This retreat will replace our regular February meeting.

Thank you Pat Kriensky for your work in coordinating a fun weekend.

HAPPY QUILTING!!!

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ATTENTION

The one who dies
with the most fab-
ric didn't sew fast
enough. Don't
worry about be-
queathing your fab-
ric, get sewing!

**Officers for 2001-2002 and 2002-2003****Co -Chairs**

Carolyn Anderson

Nancy Moynihan

Co-Treasurers

Sandy Brawders

Joyce Hochstrasser

Co-Program Coordinators

Pat Kriensky

Diane Piechowski

Newsletter Editor

Paula Whalen

Secretary

Linda Newberry

Members-at-large

Karen Bozek

Claudia Cummings

Report from your Board of Directors

The Board recently had a very productive meeting in which a number of items were discussed.

First and foremost, we decided that we definitely will proceed with plans for another quilt show!! Our target date is mid-October 2003 and we are hopeful we will be able to reserve a weekend at the same location. The Board was gratified to note the excellent participation by all of the current guild members and knows that it was the key element of the success of the show. We are confident that this pattern will be continued in our next endeavor.

If guild members haven't had a chance to fill out the show survey, please do so and hand it in to Linda Newberry. The few that have come in have been very helpful and, combined with the vendor surveys, will be added to the show notebook when planning begins in earnest next year. Also, if there's some aspect of the show in particular you'd like to be involved in next time around, please let Linda know.

Budgeting decisions were made, including keeping a floor in our account below which we will not let our funds fall. This will insure that we have start-up funds for the next show and for other speakers, events, etc.

The Board decided to pursue having more racks build. The racks we used at the show were too difficult to

EXCITING NEWS

Pat Delaney's quilt, "New York Beauty Floral," which won the best of show ribbon at our show in October, won a blue ribbon for color coordination at A Quilter's Gathering in Nashua, NH in early November! But the good news doesn't stop there. Pat has been invited to submit her quilt for inclusion in the 2003 Quilt Art engagement Calendar!!!!!! We're so excited and proud of you, Pat! (And someday when you're famous we'll all be able to say "we knew you when....")

work with and costly. A process for design, evaluation, and construction was established. We also believe that we have learned about rental options so that our racks will be more readily available for use by others, thus eventually paying for themselves. The Board discussed at great length pros and cons of changing our membership limit and decided that there will be no changes made in our limit of 30 members per year. Other items discussed by the Board are still in process or are announced elsewhere in this newsletter.



Treasurer's Report

November 4—December 11, 2001

Our current cash balance	\$5,854.55
Petty cash (bank for raffle)	40.00
Total cash on hand	\$5,894.55
Income:	
Americana Quilt Raffle	\$196.00
Expenses:	
Guild member Christmas gift fat quarters	70.12
Thimble charms for new members	2.80
Additional show expenses	30.59
Quilt Retreat deposit-Sea Crest	250.00
Net income for this month	\$ -157.51

Respectfully submitted by
Joyce Hochstrasser

January Mini Demo Workshop

In January, we will divide the membership (not the members) of the guild into fourths, and rotate thru the following mini workshops.

Diane Piechowski	Origami Flower
Karen Bozek	Fabric Manipulation
Joanne Fruzzetti	Bow Ties
Linda Newberry	Thread Painting

Then we will rotate thru the next set of demos so that the guest speakers will have a chance to try some of these new techniques

Diane Piechowski	Prairie Points & 3-D fabric folds
Jackie Carnello	3-D Pinwheels
Shirley MacLeod	Ruching
Karen Bozek	Origami Flower & Quilting Hoop
Carolyn Anderson	Beading/couching

Some of these will be demonstrations, others will be hands on; materials needed will be provided by the person conducting the workshop.

Quilt Contest

Thimbles and Friends Guild recently received a mailing from the American Textile History Museum announcing a quilt contest based on the new line of fabric "From the Mills." The quilts selected from this contest will be included in an exhibit at the Museum in Lowell during the Images show next August. They did not include enough of the flyers for all the guild members. If you are interested in participating in this contest, please contact Linda Newberry (dreamquilter@mediaone.net) and she'll pop a flyer in the mail to you as long as supplies last. You can also check out their website at www.athm.org or www.pbtex.com for more information.

Other Business

Linda reported that David Majensky from the Abington Police Department called to report that the quilts the Guild donated have been distributed to the officers and that he will keep us informed as they are distributed.

Also, Carol January has indicated she has a large quilt frame for sale and the Board decided to investigate buying it for the Guild.

Americana Sampler Quilt On The Road

Our raffle quilt for this year, "Americana Sampler" is finished and has been on display at the Gathering and at a local craft fair. In addition, a couple of guild members have taken it to their offices so that co-workers can see the quilt and purchase chances on it. If you'd like to take the quilt, let us know.

The drawing will be held on Sunday, August 18 at the Images Show in Lowell.



Caring for the Community

A million heartfelt Thanks for the generosity of all the members of the guild for their contributions to making a Merry Christmas for the residents of Ruth House in Brockton. Elf Pat Kriensky helped me deliver gifts and the ladies who run the program for these girls and their children were delighted with the bags we delivered. Spreading the cheer of the season on your behalf made me feel so good, so I Thank You for boosting my Christmas spirits!

Half a dozen newborn outfits were delivered to the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Stoughton. Director Christine Mulbury is looking for any contacts who can get new cribs and bedding for teens that decide to keep their babies. I also have found some more charities in need of our talents. In addition to Newton Wellesley needing isolet covers for the newborn nursery, there is a comp in Oxford Massachusetts for diabetic children that need summer coverlets for 143 cots. Are you rested from the quilt show and ready for a quilting marathon?

Happy Holidays, and Thanks from the bottom of my heart!

Diane Piechowski

Looking Ahead

The Board decided to set a floor for the bank account so that we don't go below that amount. The chosen amount was \$1500 per year, with a minimum of \$3000 to cover the next two years.

The Board also decided that we will definitely plan another quilt show for the fall of 2003. We want to try to go back to SS Voc Tech and Linda will write to Mr. Kosko to express our interest and see if we can get some kind of commitment from them for fall of 2003. We discussed preferred dates, which are, in order of preference: October 18 & 19, October 25 & 26, September 27 & 28, or October 4 & 5.

Also discussed was the pros and cons of making more of our own racks. Since storage is not an issue (Carolyn Anderson having storage space), we decided that in the long run our own racks are the way to go.

Reflections

Linda Newberry will be conducting a presentation at the Abington Library. "Quilts as Reflections of American History" will be presented on Saturday, Feb. 23 with the format being a lecture/trunk show with Q&A.

Time to be determined, probably in the afternoon.

"Rags for Rover"

As many of you know, I am the owner of two retired racing greyhounds, Meghan and Chuckie. The recent newsletter we received from the adoption organization, Greyhound Rescue of N.E. mentioned the need for old blankets, quilts, comforters, etc. To line the crates for the dogs. (Greyhounds are slim, bony dogs and need to be on a soft bed.) I decided to make a small charm square quilt from my "old and ugly" stash of fabric to donate to the kennel. (The dogs wouldn't appreciate Bali or Hoffman fabrics anyway!) The quilts came out great and I have a feeling the dogs will want more. If you have any "old and ugly" fabric you would love to be rid of (fabric, scraps, charm squares, etc.) I'd be happy to take it of your hands. My family would love to rescue every greyhound out there but since we can't do that, we can keep them warm and cozy!

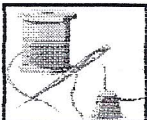
Thanks,

Joyce Hochstrasser

P.S. Greyhound Rescue is "racing neutral" which means they are not for or against racing. They look out for the best interest of the dogs by finding them homes when they are retired from racing.

Are you planning on attending Images?

The website for Images, August 15-18, now includes class descriptions and there are some dynamite teaches scheduled there this coming summer. The website address is: <http://www.newenglandimages.org>. Also, if you want to stay in the area, you should make your reservations soon. You are encouraged to try to enter items for the show. Entry deadline is March 1, 2002 and you can download the entry form from the website.



We're Very Popular!

Partially as a result of the quilt show, we now have a very long waiting list. The Board has decided to keep the waiting list, but to encourage those on it to seek out other organizations. A letter was recently sent to all the people on the list who provided their addresses telling them about the formation of a new guild at Quilter's compass in Quincy Center (the second Friday of every month, beginning this coming January). If you know of someone who wants to be in a guild, you might want to refer them there.

What is a Mini-Group?

Have you watched Simply Quilts and heard Alex Anderson talk about her mini-group? Or have you heard of them, but don't know what they are?

A mini-group is an informal meeting of quilters who gather on a regular basis to sew and chat. There is no set format, no "meeting" structure, etc. Usually there is a key element that makes a mini-group form...often proximity of where people live or sometimes it is a shared passion for a certain type of quilting. Sometimes they meet every week, sometimes once a month, whatever...

Some mini-groups consist of working women who meet in the evening and others are daytime groups. Most mini-group members work on their own projects,

Planning Ahead

At its recent meeting the Board decided that we need to set a formal committee to be in charge of our raffle quilt each year. It is important to note that this does not mean that the members of the committee are SOLELY responsible for the production of the quilt, but they do agree to take on responsibility for planning the quilt, organizing work on the quilt, and coordinating selling of tickets. All quilt members are still expected to support the raffle quilt each year, whether it be through helping with sewing or manning tables during selling opportunities. We hope that by forming committees to coordinate these fun and highly profitable endeavors, we can avoid having a lot of responsibility fall to only a few individuals within the

guild. We are very fortunate that we have been able to form TWO raffle quilt committees, one for each of the next two years.

The Raffle Quilt Committee for 2002-3 is Debi Carye, Kathy Young, and Diane Piechowski. This is the quilt that will have its premiere with The Gathering in Nashua in November of next year, with tickets being sold through the 2002-3 season. It will be raffled off at our quilt show in the fall of 2003. The quilt choice has yet to be determined.

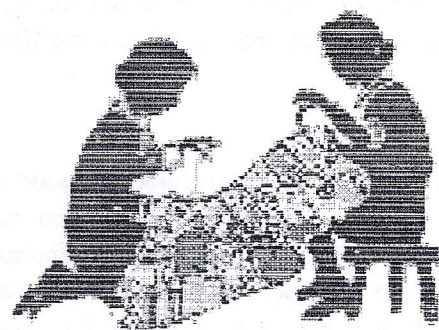
The Raffle Quilt Committee for 2003-04 is Karen Bozek, Paula Whalen, and Linda Newberry. They have already decided that the quilt for this season will be a crazy quilt.

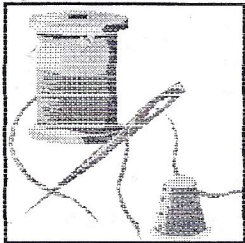
but sometimes they "challenge" each other or do "round robins."

Mini-groups are usually kept pretty small as they often take place around someone's kitchen table. If you want to be in a mini-group the best way is to start one! Talk with a few people who might live near you or who you know like the same type of projects you do and invite them over. Don't worry about cleaning house before they come over... have a couple of comfortable chairs available, a clean table surface and good lighting and you're all set!

While some guilds encourage their members to form mini-

groups as a way fostering interpersonal relationships, Thimble and Friends doesn't formally sponsor mini-groups. But we encourage you to think about starting one...they're great fun!





Thimbles & Friends Quilting Guild
c/o L. Newberry
728 Auburn St., G-4
Whitman, MA 02382

MEETING SCHEDULE:

- January 5, 2002 Embellishment Demos - Don't miss this meeting were we'll have demo areas set up to show different types of embellishment techniques. There will also be time for show & tell.
- February 2, 2002 Weekend Retreat - Seacrest Resort, Falmouth
- March 2, 2002, Helen Weiman Trunk Show - Her trunk show is always a delight...even if you've seen her presentation before be sure and come because she has different items than before and there is always something to inspire your next project.
- April 6, 2002 Jacket Workshop - This workshop will be conducted by Karen Bozek
- May 5, 2002 " What Show Judges Look For " and Challenge Quilts due - Our last meeting for this year and will feature a lecture by Mary Walters.

We will continue to meet from 10:15 until 12:30, unless a special event is being planned. Please remember that the library does not open it doors until 10 a.m. These dates are the FIRST Saturday of the month

NEWSLETTER INFO

Do you have info you think the guild members would be interested in? Do you know of someone who does excellent quilting for hire? Have you read a particularly good quilting book lately? Share it in the newsletter! Please feel free to give Paula Whalen the information or send it to her via e-mail at pjwhalen@bellatlantic.net, at least 3 weeks in advance. Also, please feel free to offer any feed back on the newsletter format. Did I leave anything out? Is there something you think I should add? Thanks for you input.

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